

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for awarding a player of a casino bonus game played in a touch screen from an underlying game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

providing a hidden bonus feature in the touch screen to the player ~~during in the~~ play of the casino bonus game, the casino bonus game during said play not disclosing information on the gaming machine to the player as to when the hidden bonus feature is provided ~~and/or~~ and how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving a single response touch input ~~in~~ on the provided hidden bonus feature on the touch screen of the casino bonus game from the player ~~to said provided hidden bonus~~ feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino bonus game to the player when the response from the player is correct.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when one or a predetermined combination of game symbols appears on the touch screen in the casino bonus game during play of the casino bonus game.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a predetermined event occurs in play of the casino bonus game.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a hidden bonus feature display randomly occurs in the casino bonus game.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs randomly.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the bonus award is independent of the play of the casino bonus game, thereby affording players who know how to correctly respond to said hidden bonus feature a higher expected return than players who do not know how to correctly respond to the hidden bonus feature.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the response is correct when an input is received from the player within a predetermined time period.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein the faster a player inputs a correct answer in the predetermined time period, the greater the bonus award.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein resuming play of the casino bonus game occurs after the predetermined time frame times out.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein play of the casino bonus game continues during the predetermined time frame.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 wherein if the player provides a response for play of the casino bonus game prior to providing a response for the hidden bonus feature, then the predetermined time frame immediately times out.

Claims 13-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature originates in a controller of a progressive system connected to the casino bonus game.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein playing of the casino bonus game by the player occurs over the Internet.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is an animated sequence.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 17 wherein the hidden bonus animated sequence is a variation of animated sequences appearing in the casino bonus game.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein the response from the player is the player touching the hidden bonus animated sequence appearing on a touch screen display.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is a graphic.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 20 wherein the graphic is a variation of graphics appearing in the casino bonus game.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the player is cued as to the hidden bonus feature.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is provided at the same point in the casino bonus game.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for awarding a player of a casino bonus game played in a touch screen from an underlying game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

providing displaying on the touch screen a hidden bonus feature to the player during play of the casino bonus game, without warning the player, the casino bonus game

having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving a single input touch response on the displayed hidden bonus feature in the touch screen ~~to the provided hidden bonus feature~~ from the player within a predetermined time period after providing the hidden bonus feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino bonus game to the player when the single input response from the player occurs within the predetermined time period, wherein the delivered bonus award is independent of the play of the casino bonus game and the play of the casino bonus game is independent of the provided the hidden bonus feature, the received input from the player and the delivered bonus award.

Claims 26-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method for awarding a player of a casino bonus game, the casino bonus game played in the touch screen by the player in conjunction with an underlying game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

randomly displaying a hidden bonus feature in the touch screen to the player during play of the casino bonus game without warning the player, the casino bonus game and the underlying game on the gaming machine having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving a single input response on the touch screen for ~~to the~~ displayed provided hidden bonus feature from the player within a predetermined time period after displaying the hidden bonus feature,

providing a bonus award in the casino bonus game to the player wherein the provided bonus award is independent of any other awards from play of the casino bonus game and the underlying gaming machine,

resuming play of the casino bonus game when the hidden bonus feature is over and/or the response from the player is not correct.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the hidden bonus feature further displays a bonus value for the bonus award.